



Complete Summary

TITLE

Homeless: percent of homeless veterans entering a homeless program who receive timely MH or SUD specialty services.

SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality Performance. FY 2009, Q2 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration; 2009 Jan 5. various p.

Measure Domain

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Access

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percent of homeless veterans entering a homeless program who receive timely mental health (MH) or substance use disorder (SUD) specialty services.

RATIONALE

Many homeless veterans are not currently enrolled in Veterans Administration (VA) or aware they are eligible for services. Resources have been provided by Congress to reach beyond currently enrolled veterans to identify homeless veterans and provide services to them. VA offers a wide array of special programs and initiatives specifically designed to help homeless veterans live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible. The programs strive to offer a continuum of services that include:

- Aggressive outreach to veterans living on the street and in shelters who otherwise would not seek assistance
- Clinical assessment and referral to needed medical treatment for physical and psychiatric disorders including substance abuse
- Long-term sheltered transitional assistance, case management, and rehab
- Employment assistance and linkage with available income supports
- Supported permanent housing

The intent of this measure is to evaluate homeless veteran access to services.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Homeless; timely access to mental health (MH) or substance use disorder (SUD) specialty care

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

Number of homeless veterans who enter a Contract Residential Care for Homeless Veterans or Grant and Per Diem homeless program and have a length of stay of at least 7 days (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Number of veterans from the denominator who receive timely* mental health (MH) or substance use disorder (SUD) specialty care

**Timely care* is defined as applicable inpatient, residential, or outpatient care occurring within the period of 30 days prior to and extending to 60 days after the index date. Refer to the original measure documentation for additional details.

Evidence Supporting the Measure

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

External oversight/Veterans Health Administration
Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use**CARE SETTING**

Ambulatory Care
Behavioral Health Care
Residential Care Facilities
Substance Use Treatment Programs/Centers

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Physicians
Psychologists/Non-physician Behavioral Health Clinicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Unspecified

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component**INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

Unspecified

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Homeless (See the "Rationale" field.)

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Getting Better
Living with Illness

IOM DOMAIN

Patient-centeredness
Timeliness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

Homeless veterans who enter a Contract Residential Care for Homeless Veterans or Grant and Per Diem homeless program and have a length of stay of at least 7 days

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Number of homeless veterans who enter a Contract Residential Care for Homeless Veterans or Grant and Per Diem homeless program and have a length of stay of at least 7 days

Exclusions

- Patients entering a Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) program. These programs are accredited by Joint Commission Behavior Health Standards which require a psychosocial assessment. Due to the significant

difference in the type of programs and regulatory requirements, the DCHV program is reviewed separately.

- Veterans already included in this performance measure in the previous six months at the same Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC)
- Veterans without an initial enrollment date

RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Institutionalization
Patient Characteristic

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window follows index event

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Number of veterans from the denominator who receive timely* mental health (MH) or substance use disorder (SUD) specialty care

**Timely care* is defined as applicable inpatient, residential, or outpatient care occurring within the period of 30 days prior to and extending to 60 days after the index date. Refer to the original measure documentation for additional details.

Exclusions

Unspecified

MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Fixed time period

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data
Medical record

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure**SCORING**

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties**EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING**

Unspecified

Identifying Information**ORIGINAL TITLE**

MH homeless program access to MH or SUD specialty.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2009: Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) Performance Measurement System](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[Performance Measures](#)

MEASURE SUBSET NAME

[Mental Health Access](#)

DEVELOPER

Veterans Health Administration

FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Unspecified

COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE

Unspecified

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Unspecified

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2004 Nov

REVISION DATE

2009 Jan

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

This measure updates a previous version: Office of Quality and Performance (10Q). FY 2008, Q1 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Washington (DC); 2007 Oct 31. 315 p.

SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality Performance. FY 2009, Q2 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration; 2009 Jan 5. various p.

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "MH Homeless Program Access to MH or SUD Specialty," is published in "FY 2009, Q2 Technical Manual for the VHA Performance Measurement System."

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NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on April 14, 2005. The information was verified by the measure developer on April 15, 2005. This NQMC summary was updated by ECRI Institute on February 7, 2008. The information was not verified by the measure developer. This NQMC summary was updated again by ECRI Institute on December 11, 2009. The information was verified by the measure developer on March 22, 2010.

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